

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system, comprising:

5 a computational resource;

a plurality of applications configured to utilize said computational resource;

a metering utility configured to measure utilization of said computational resource

10 by a given one of said plurality of applications; and

a cost model configured to allocate a first portion of a cost of said computational resource to said given application dependent upon said measured utilization of said computational resource by said given application.

15 2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said cost model is further configured to allocate a second portion of said cost of said computational resource to said given application as a fixed cost not dependent upon said measured utilization of said computational resource by said given application.

20 3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein said first and second portions total one hundred percent of said cost, and wherein subject to said totaling, said first and said second portions each comprise from zero percent to one hundred percent of said cost.

25 4. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said cost model includes direct and indirect costs of providing said computational resource.

30 5. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said computational resource is one of a plurality of computational resources, and wherein said cost model is further configured to distribute at least a portion of a total cost of providing said plurality of

computational resources among said plurality of computational resources, such that each of said computational resources bears a respective cost share of said at least a portion of said total cost.

5 6. The system as recited in claim 5, wherein said cost model is further configured to:

 determine a respective total available capacity of each of said computational resources; and

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 compute a respective unit cost for each of said computational resources from said respective total available capacity and said respective cost share.

 7. The system as recited in claim 6, wherein determining said respective total
15 available capacity includes applying a respective expected resource utilization factor.

 8. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said first portion of said cost is dependent upon a quality of service of said given application.

20 9. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said computational resource includes a processor, a storage device, or a network communication device.

 10. A method, comprising:

25 a plurality of applications utilizing a computational resource;

 measuring utilization of said computational resource by a given one of said plurality of applications; and

allocating a first portion of a cost of said computational resource to said given application dependent upon said measured utilization of said computational resource by said given application.

5 11. The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising allocating a second portion of said cost of said computational resource to said given application as a fixed cost not dependent upon said measured utilization of said computational resource by said given application.

10 12. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein said first and second portions total one hundred percent of said cost, and wherein subject to said totaling, said first and said second portions each comprise from zero percent to one hundred percent of said cost.

15 13. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said cost includes direct and indirect costs of providing said computational resource.

 14. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said computational resource is one of a plurality of computational resources, and further comprising distributing at least a portion of a total cost of providing said plurality of computational resources among said plurality of computational resources, such that each of said computational resources bears a respective cost share of said at least a portion of said total cost.

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 15. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

25 determining a respective total available capacity of each of said computational resources; and

 computing a respective unit cost for each of said computational resources from said respective total available capacity and said respective cost share.

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16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein determining said respective total available capacity includes applying a respective expected resource utilization factor.

17. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said first portion of said cost is
5 dependent upon a quality of service of said given application.

18. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said computational resource includes a processor, a storage device, or a network communication device.

19. A computer-accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein
10 the program instructions are executable to:

implement a plurality of applications, wherein each of said plurality of applications is configured to utilize a computational resource;

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measure utilization of said computational resource by a given one of said plurality of applications; and

allocate a first portion of a cost of said computational resource to said given
20 application dependent upon said measured utilization of said computational resource by said given application.

20. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the program instructions are further executable to allocate a second portion of said cost of
25 said computational resource to said given application as a fixed cost not dependent upon said measured utilization of said computational resource by said given application.

21. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said first and second portions total one hundred percent of said cost, and wherein subject to said

totaling, said first and said second portions each comprise from zero percent to one hundred percent of said cost.

22. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 19, wherein said cost
5 includes direct and indirect costs of providing said computational resource.

23. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 19, wherein said
computational resource is one of a plurality of computational resources, and wherein the
program instructions are further executable to distribute at least a portion of a total cost of
10 providing said plurality of computational resources among said plurality of computational
resources, such that each of said computational resources bears a respective cost share of
said at least a portion of said total cost.

24. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the
15 program instructions are further executable to:

determine a respective total available capacity of each of said computational
resources; and

20 compute a respective unit cost for each of said computational resources from said
respective total available capacity and said respective cost share.

25. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 24, wherein
determining said respective total available capacity includes applying a respective
25 expected resource utilization factor.

26. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 19, wherein said first
portion of said cost is dependent upon a quality of service of said given application.

27. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 19, wherein said computational resource includes a processor, a storage device, or a network communication device.